



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Reminder about Charterboat, Headboat, and Commercial Permits to Fish for Dolphin or Wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) wants to remind fishermen there are several federal regulations regarding fishing for dolphin and wahoo in federal waters of the Atlantic Ocean (Maine through the east coast of Florida).

### Summary of requirements

- Owners and operators of commercial vessels, charter vessels, and headboats are required to have a federal vessel permit to fish for or possess dolphin and wahoo in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The vessel operator must have an operator card on board the vessel along with one other form of personal identification that includes a picture (driver license, passport, etc.).
- Dealers must have permits to buy dolphin or wahoo from permitted fishermen.
- Recreational sale of dolphin and wahoo caught under the bag limit is prohibited unless the seller holds the necessary commercial permits.
- There is a commercial trip limit of 500 pounds for wahoo, and no commercial trip limit for dolphin.
- A commercially-permitted vessel fishing north of 39° N. latitude, that does not have a federal commercial vessel permit for dolphin or wahoo, may possess 200 pounds of dolphin and wahoo, combined.

- There is a recreational bag limit of 10 dolphin and 2 wahoo per person per day, with a limit of 60 dolphin per boat per day (headboats are excluded from the boat limit).

### How to get a permit or operator card

If you are the owner of a vessel needing a vessel permit and operator card to fish for dolphin and wahoo, please contact the Permits Branch at the address listed below:

**NOAA Fisheries Service**  
**Southeast Regional Office**  
**Permits Branch**  
**263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**  
**St. Petersburg, Florida 33701**  
**Phone: 727-824-5326; FAX: 727-551-5747**

Applications for a vessel permit and operator cards also are available on NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>. The application may be filled out online, printed, and mailed to the Permits Branch at the address above, along with all other pertinent information and payments. A fee will be charged for each permit application or a written request for permits replacement. The applicable fee is specified on the appropriate form.

Vessel operators possessing an operator card for the fisheries in the Northeast Region need only submit a copy of their valid Northeast Region operator card when applying for a vessel permit.

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office, F/SER24  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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